

Topline

Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: Late June 2015

Late June 2015

METHODOLOGY

This *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* was designed and analyzed by public opinion researchers at the Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF). The survey was conducted June 25-29, 2015, among a nationally representative random digit dial telephone sample of 1,202 adults ages 18 and older, living in the United States, including Alaska and Hawaii (note: persons without a telephone could not be included in the random selection process). Computer-assisted telephone interviews conducted by landline (482) and cell phone (720, including 418 who had no landline telephone) were carried out in English and Spanish by Princeton Data Source under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International (PSRAI). Both the random digit dial landline and cell phone samples were provided by Survey Sampling International, LLC. For the landline sample, respondents were selected by asking for the youngest adult male or female currently at home based on a random rotation. If no one of that gender was available, interviewers asked to speak with the youngest adult of the opposite gender. For the cell phone sample, interviews were conducted with the adult who answered the phone. KFF paid for all costs associated with the survey.

The combined landline and cell phone sample was weighted to balance the sample demographics to match estimates for the national population using data from the Census Bureau's 2013 American Community Survey (ACS) on sex, age, education, race, Hispanic origin, nativity (for Hispanics only), and region along with data from the 2010 Census on population density. The sample was also weighted to match current patterns of telephone use using data from the January-June 2014 National Health Interview Survey. The weight takes into account the fact that respondents with both a landline and cell phone have a higher probability of selection in the combined sample and also adjusts for the household size for the landline sample. All statistical tests of significance account for the effect of weighting.

The margin of sampling error including the design effect for the full sample is plus or minus 3 percentage points. Numbers of respondents and margins of sampling error for key subgroups are shown in the table below. For results based on other subgroups, the margin of sampling error may be higher. Sample sizes and margins of sampling error for other subgroups are available by request. Note that sampling error is only one of many potential sources of error in this or any other public opinion poll. Kaiser Family Foundation public opinion and survey research is a charter member of the [Transparency Initiative](#) of the American Association for Public Opinion Research.

Group	N (unweighted)	M.O.S.E.
Total	1,202	±3 percentage points
Party Identification		
Democrats	388	±6 percentage points
Republicans	280	±7 percentage points
Independents	368	±6 percentage points
Opinion of ACA		
Favorable	515	±5 percentage points
Unfavorable	512	±5 percentage points

All trends shown in this document come from Kaiser Health Tracking Polls except:

01/11: Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the 112th Congress* (January 4-14, 2011)

1. As you may know, a health reform bill was signed into law in 2010. Given what you know about the health reform law, do you have a generally (favorable) or generally (unfavorable) opinion of it? [GET ANSWER THEN ASK: Is that a very (favorable/unfavorable) or somewhat (favorable/unfavorable) opinion?] [INTERVIEWER NOTE: If respondent asks if the health reform law refers to the Affordable Care Act or Obamacare, please answer “yes”] (ROTATE OPTIONS IN PARENTHESES)

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know/ Refused
06/29/15	23	20	13	27	17
06/09/15	19	20	16	26	19
04/15	22	21	15	27	14
03/15	22	19	15	28	16
01/15	19	21	16	30	15
12/14	18	23	16	30	14
11/14	18	19	16	30	18
10/14	16	20	16	27	20
09/14	15	20	15	32	19
07/14	15	22	18	35	11
06/14	19	20	15	30	16
05/14	19	19	12	33	17
04/14	19	19	16	30	16
03/14	18	20	14	32	15
02/14	16	19	14	33	18
01/14	17	17	15	35	16
12/13	17	17	12	36	18
11/13	15	18	13	36	18
10/13	21	17	13	31	18
09/13	20	19	13	30	17
08/13	17	20	14	28	20
06/13	15	20	13	30	23
04/13	16	19	12	28	24
03/13	17	20	13	27	23
02/13	18	18	13	29	23
11/12	19	24	12	27	19
10/12	20	18	14	29	19
09/12	25	20	12	28	14
08/12	21	17	13	30	19
07/12	20	18	13	31	17
06/12	25	16	11	30	18
05/12	17	20	12	32	19
04/12	20	22	9	34	15
03/12	18	23	11	29	19
02/12	17	25	16	27	15
01/12	18	19	14	30	19
12/11 ¹	19	22	15	28	17
11/11	17	20	15	29	19
10/11	12	22	20	31	15
09/11	18	23	14	29	16
08/11	16	23	17	27	17
07/11	20	22	12	31	15
06/11	15	27	16	30	12
05/11	19	23	15	29	14
04/11	20	21	14	27	18
03/11	21	21	15	31	13
02/11	16	27	19	29	8
01/11	19	22	16	34	9
12/10	22	20	14	27	18
11/10	19	23	12	28	18
10/10	18	24	15	29	15
09/10	19	30	15	25	11
08/10	19	24	13	32	12

¹ May 2010 through December 2011 trend wording was “As you may know, a health reform bill was signed into law early last year...”

Q.1 continued

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know/Refused
07/10	21	29	10	25	14
06/10	20	28	16	25	10
05/10	14	27	12	32	14
04/10 ²	23	23	10	30	14

2. Which comes closer to your view? (READ AND ROTATE)

Based on those who have an unfavorable view of health reform law

	06/29/15	10/13 ³	09/13
I don't like the health care law, but I think it's time for opponents to accept that it's the law of the land and move on to other things	23	19	15
Opponents of the health care law should continue their efforts to either repeal the law or stop it from being fully implemented	72	75	81
Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	4 (n=512)	6 (n=688)	3 (n=678)

Summary of Q1 and Q2 based on total

	06/29/15	10/13	09/13
Favorable	43	38	39
Unfavorable	40	44	43
I don't like the health care law, but it's time for opponents to accept it	10	8	7
Opponents should continue efforts to repeal or stop the law from being fully implemented	29	33	35
Don't know/Refused	2	2	1
Don't know/Refused	17	18	17

3. What would you like to see Congress do when it comes to the health care law? (READ AND ROTATE 1-4; 4-1)

	06/29/15	06/09/15	04/15	03/15	01/15	12/14	11/14
Expand what the law does	25	24	24	23	23	24	22
Move forward with implementing the law as it is	22	19	22	23	19	21	20
Scale back what the law does	12	12	12	10	14	12	17
Repeal the entire law	27	29	29	30	32	31	29
None of these/Something else (VOL.)	5	7	5	7	5	4	5
Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	7	10	8	7	7	7	8

² April 2010 trend wording was “[President Obama did sign a health reform bill into law last month...] Given what you know about the new health reform law, do you have a generally (favorable) or generally (unfavorable) opinion of it? (Is that a very favorable/unfavorable or somewhat favorable/unfavorable opinion?)”

³ Trend wording for September 2013 through October 2013 was “Opponents of the health care law should continue their efforts to either repeal the law or stop it from being implemented”

4. So far, would you say the health care law has directly (helped) you and your family, directly (hurt) you and your family, or has it not had a direct impact? (ROTATE ITEMS IN PARENTHESES)

	Helped	Hurt	No direct impact	Both helped and hurt (VOL.)	Don't know/Refused
06/29/15	19	24	53	1	2
06/09/15	19	24	54	1	2
04/15	19	22	56	1	2
03/15	19	22	57	*	2
01/15	16	25	57	1	1
11/14	16	24	59	*	1
10/14	16	26	56	1	1
09/14	14	27	56	1	1
07/14	15	28	56	*	1
05/14	14	24	60	*	2

5. Which comes closer to your view? (READ AND ROTATE)

	06/29/15	06/09/15	01/15	03/14
I'm tired of hearing about the debate over the health care law and I think the country should focus more on other issues (or)	44	45	45	53
I think it is important for the country to continue the debate over the health care law (or)	51	49	50	42
Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	4	7	5	6

6. As you may have heard, the Supreme Court heard a case about whether the health care law says people in all states can be eligible for financial help from the government to buy health insurance or if financial help is only available to people in states with state-run marketplaces. How much, if anything, have you heard about this case? A lot, some, only a little or nothing at all?

	06/29/15	06/09/15	03/15 ⁴	01/15 ⁵	12/14 ⁶
A lot	22	13	9	5	4
Some	17	14	13	9	11
Only a little	30	28	25	30	29
Nothing at all	31	44	53	56	55
Don't know/Refused	1	1	1	*	*

7. To the best of your knowledge, has the United States Supreme Court announced their final ruling on the case challenging part of the health care law, or not?

	06/29/15
Yes, announced ruling	39
No, did not announce ruling	38
Don't know/Refused	23

⁴ Trend wording was "As you may have heard, the Supreme Court just heard a case about whether the health care law says people in all states can be eligible for financial help from the government to buy health insurance or if financial help is only available to people in states with state-run marketplaces..."

⁵ Trend wording was "As you may have heard, the Supreme Court will hear a case about whether the health care law says people in all states can be eligible for financial help from the government to buy health insurance or if financial help is only available to people in states with state-run marketplaces..."

⁶ Trend wording was "As you may have heard, the Supreme Court recently announced it will hear a case about whether low- and moderate-income people in states with federally-run marketplaces will remain eligible for financial help from the government to buy health insurance in states with state-run marketplaces..."

8. As far as you know, did the Supreme Court rule (to change the health care law so that financial help to buy health insurance can only be provided to people in states with state-run marketplaces), or did the Court rule (to keep the health care law as it is so that financial help can be provided to people in all states including those using the federal marketplace)? (ROTATE OPTIONS IN PARENTHESES)

Based on those who know the Supreme Court announced its final ruling (n=550)

	06/29/15
Only provided to people in states with state-run marketplaces	10
Provided to people in all states including those using the federal marketplace	78
Don't know/Refused	13

Summary of Q7 and Q8 based on total

	06/29/15
Yes, Court announced ruling	39
Only provided to people in states with state-run marketplaces	4
Provided to people in all states including those using the federal marketplace	30
Don't know/Refused	5
No, Court did not announce ruling	38
Don't know/Refused	23

No questions 9-20.

21. [Though not everyone has had a chance to hear about it / As you noted], the Supreme Court recently decided to keep the health care law as it is so that low and moderate income people in all states can be eligible for financial help from the government to buy health insurance, regardless of the type of marketplace set up in their state. Do you approve or disapprove of the Court's decision in this case?

	06/29/15
Approve	62
Disapprove	32
Don't know/Refused	7

22. What if you heard that as a result of the decision, more than 6 million people in states using the federal marketplace will keep the financial help they have been getting to pay for health insurance? Would you still say you disapprove of the Court's decision or would you now say you approve?

Based on those who disapprove of the Supreme Court's decision in the health care law case (n=401)

	06/29/15
Still disapprove of decision	79
Now approve of decision	14
Don't know/Refused	7

Summary of Q21 and Q22 based on total

	06/29/15
Approve of Court's decision	62
Disapprove of Court's decision	32
Still disapprove after hearing that more than 6 million people will keep financial help	25
Now approve after hearing that more than 6 million people will keep financial help	4
Don't know/Refused	2
Don't know/Refused	7

23. Which comes closer to your view? (READ AND ROTATE)

	06/29/15
The recent debate over who can legally receive financial help under the health care law is the LAST major battle about the law	18
There will be MORE major battles about the health care law in the future	78
Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	4

24. Overall, how would you say you feel about the Court's decision? Would you say you feel (ROTATE ORDER 1-4,4-1)?

	06/29/15
Angry	11
Disappointed but not angry	30
Satisfied but not enthusiastic	36
Enthusiastic	15
Some other emotion (VOL.)	3
Don't care (VOL.)	2
Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	4

25. Next, please tell me how closely you have followed these stories that have been in the news recently. (First/Next,) (INSERT--READ AND RANDOMIZE). READ FOR FIRST ITEM THEN AS NECESSARY: Did you follow this story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely?

		Very closely	Fairly closely	Not too closely	Not at all closely	Don't know/Refused
a. An expert panel's recommendation for the FDA to approve new cholesterol-lowering drugs	06/29/15	4	10	22	63	1
b. Release of 2016 health insurance premium rates	06/29/15	7	17	24	51	1
	09/14 ⁷	8	12	23	55	3
	07/14	10	20	24	45	1
	06/14	8	19	25	46	1
c. Medicare cuts proposed in the trade bill	06/29/15	8	16	26	49	1
d. The Supreme Court Case about the health care law	06/29/15	18	34	24	24	*
	04/15 ⁸	16	25	27	32	1
e. The resignation of the Spokane NAACP Chapter president after reports that she has been falsely portraying herself as Black	06/29/15	13	32	24	31	*
f. A manhunt for two prisoners convicted of murder, following their escape from a New York prison	06/29/15	27	34	22	17	*
g. The 2016 presidential campaigns	06/29/15	22	32	22	22	1
	06/09/15	25	31	18	26	1
h. A mass shooting at a historic Black church in Charleston, South Carolina	06/29/15	40	39	11	9	*
i. Potential mergers between some of the nation's major health insurers	06/29/15	6	17	24	53	*
j. The Supreme Court case on same-sex marriage	06/29/15	31	33	18	17	1

⁷ Trend wording for June 2014 through September 2014 was "The release of 2015 health insurance premium rates by insurers in some states"

⁸ April 2015 trend wording was "The Supreme Court case about the health care law and its potential effect on some states"

READ: Finally, I have just a few questions we will use to describe the people who took part in our survey...

D5. What is your age? (RECORD EXACT AGE AS TWO-DIGIT CODE.)

D6. (ASK IF DON'T KNOW OR REFUSED AGE) Could you please tell me if you are between the ages of... (READ LIST)

	06/29/15
18-29	20
30-49	34
50-64	27
65 and older	17
Don't know/Refused	*

D4. Are you, yourself, now covered by any form of health insurance or health plan or do you not have health insurance at this time? (READ IF NECESSARY: A health plan would include any private insurance plan through your employer or a plan that you purchased yourself, as well as a government program like Medicare or [Medicaid/Medi-CAL])?

	06/29/15
Covered by health insurance	84
Not covered by health insurance	15
Don't know/Refused	1

D4a. Which of the following is your MAIN source of health insurance coverage? Is it a plan through your employer, a plan through your spouse's employer, a plan you purchased yourself either from an insurance company or a state or federal marketplace, are you covered by Medicare or (Medicaid/[INSERT STATE-SPECIFIC MEDICAID NAME]), or do you get your health insurance from somewhere else?

Based on those who are insured (n=1,059)

	06/29/15
Plan through your employer	34
Plan through your spouse's employer	12
Plan you purchased yourself	10
Medicare	20
Medicaid/[STATE-SPECIFIC MEDICAID NAME]	11
Somewhere else	4
Plan through your parents/mother/father (VOL.)	7
Don't know/Refused	2

26. Did you purchase your plan directly from an insurance company, from the marketplace known as healthcare.gov (or [INSERT STATE-SPECIFIC MARKETPLACE NAME]), or through an insurance agent or broker?

Based on those ages 18-64 who purchased own insurance plan (sample size insufficient to report)

Summary D4, D4a, Q26 based on those ages 18-64 (n=854)

	06/29/15
Covered by health insurance	81
Employer	32
Spouse's employer	11
Self-purchased plan	9
Directly from an insurance company	3
From healthcare.gov or [STATE MARKETPLACE NAME]	3
Through an insurance agent or broker	3
Somewhere else (VOL.)	1
Don't know/Refused	*
Medicare	7
Medicaid/State-specific Medicaid name	11
Somewhere else	3
Plan through parents/mother/father (VOL.)	7
Don't know/Refused	1
Not covered by health insurance	18
Don't know/Refused	1

27. Regardless of how you purchased your plan, do you know if it is a marketplace or [healthcare.gov/INSERT STATE SPECIFIC MARKETPLACE NAME] plan, is it NOT a marketplace or [healthcare.gov/INSERT STATE SPECIFIC MARKETPLACE NAME] plan, or are you not sure? (ENTER ONE ONLY)

Based on purchased own insurance plan except those who bought plan through marketplace (sample size insufficient to report)

Summary D4, D4a, Q26, and Q27 based on those ages 18-64 (n=854)

	06/29/15
Covered by health insurance	81
Employer	32
Spouse's employer	11
Self-purchased plan	9
Directly from insurance company/agent or broker/Other	6
Marketplace plan	1
Non-marketplace plan	2
Not sure/Refused	3
From healthcare.gov or [STATE MARKETPLACE NAME]	3
Medicare	7
Medicaid/State-specific Medicaid name	11
Somewhere else	3
Plan through parents/mother/father (VOL.)	7
Don't know/Refused	1
Not covered by health insurance	18
Don't know/Refused	1

D1.	Record respondent's sex	
	Male	49
	Female	51
D2b.	Are you currently married, living with a partner, widowed, divorced, separated, or have you never been married?	
	Married	46
	Living with a partner	7
	Widowed	6
	Divorced	11
	Separated	3
	Never been married	26
	Don't know/Refused	*
D3.	What best describes your employment situation today? (READ IN ORDER)	
	Employed full-time	45
	Employed part-time	12
	Unemployed and currently seeking employment	5
	Unemployed and not seeking employment	3
	A student	5
	Retired	16
	On disability and can't work	8
	Or, a homemaker or stay at home parent	5
	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*
D8.	In politics today, do you consider yourself a [ROTATE: Republican, Democrat/Democrat, Republican], an Independent, or what?	
	Republican	21
	Democrat	32
	Independent	31
	Or what/Other/None/No preference/Other party	10
	Don't know/Refused	5
D8a.	Do you LEAN more towards the [ROTATE: Republican Party or the Democratic Party/Democratic Party or the Republican Party]? (ROTATE OPTIONS IN SAME ORDER AS D8)	
	<u>Summary D8 and D8a based on total</u>	
	Republican/Lean Republican	34
	Democrat/Lean Democratic	47
	Other/Don't lean/Don't know	19
	<u>Five-Point Party ID</u>	
	Democrat	32
	Independent Lean Democratic	15
	Independent/Don't lean	18
	Independent Lean Republican	13
	Republican	21
	Undesignated	1
D8b.	Would you say your views in most political matters are liberal, moderate or conservative?	
	Liberal	25
	Moderate	34
	Conservative	34
	Don't know/Refused	7

D8c. Do you consider yourself to be a supporter of the Tea Party movement, or not?

Yes, supporter of Tea Party movement	16
No, not a supporter of Tea Party movement	75
Don't know/Refused	9

D11. What is the highest level of school you have completed or the highest degree you have received? (DO NOT READ)

Less than high school (Grades 1-8 or no formal schooling)	3
High school incomplete (Grades 9-11 or Grade 12 with NO diploma)	5
High school graduate (Grade 12 with diploma or GED certificate)	34
Some college, no degree (includes some community college)	18
Two year associate degree from a college/university	12
Four year college or university degree/Bachelor's degree	15
Some postgraduate or professional schooling, no postgraduate degree	1
Postgraduate or professional degree, including master's, doctorate, medical or law degree	12
Don't know/Refused	1

D12. Are you, yourself, of Hispanic or Latino background, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or some other Spanish background?

D13. What is your race? Are you white, black, Asian or some other race? (IF RESPONDENT SAYS HISPANIC ASK: Do you consider yourself a white Hispanic or a black Hispanic?)

White, non-Hispanic	65
Total non-White	33
Black or African-American, non-Hispanic	11
Hispanic	15
Asian, non-Hispanic	3
Other/Mixed race, non-Hispanic	4
Undesignated	2

D12a. Were you born in the United States, on the island of Puerto Rico, or in another country?

Based on Hispanics (n=124)

U.S.	48
Puerto Rico	1
Another country	49
Don't know/Refused	2

D14. Last year—that is, in 2014—what was your total family income from all sources, before taxes? Just stop me when I get to the right category. (READ)

Less than \$20,000	20
\$20,000 to less than \$30,000	13
\$30,000 to less than \$40,000	10
\$40,000 to less than \$50,000	8
\$50,000 to less than \$75,000	13
\$75,000 to less than \$90,000	7
\$90,000 to less than \$100,000	3
\$100,000 or more	13
Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	12

END OF INTERVIEW: That's all the questions I have. Thanks for your time.



The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation

Headquarters
2400 Sand Hill Road
Menlo Park, CA 94025
Phone: (650) 854-9400 Fax: (650) 854-4800

Washington Offices and
Barbara Jordan Conference Center
1330 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
Phone: (202) 347-5270 Fax: (202) 347-5274

www.kff.org

This publication (#8750-T) is available on the
Kaiser Family Foundation website at www.kff.org.

Filling the need for trusted information on national health issues,
the Kaiser Family Foundation is a nonprofit organization based in Menlo Park, California.